

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

DOT-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 /169 W
----- 002486

P R 131745Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0310

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN NATIONAL RAIL STRIKE: ITF REACTION

REF: NEW DELHI 6343

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTWORKERS
FEDERATION (ITF) HAS CABLED PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND
ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD TO PROTEST THE ACTION OF
THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN ARRESTING RAILWAY UNION LEADERS.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN ITS CABLE TO MADAME GANDHI, THE ITF DECLARED THAT
IT "WAS APPALLED AT THE MASS ARREST OF INDIAN RAILWAYMEN
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LEADERS." IT SAID THAT "SUCH ACTION GRAVELY VIOLATED

ALL ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND CAN EXACERBATE EXISTING BITTERNESS. WE CALL ON YOU IMMEDIATELY TO RELEASE ALL CONCERNED, AND TO COMMENCE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE RAILWAYMEN'S GENUINE GRIEVANCES."

3. THE ITF IN ITS CABLE TO BLANCHARD, REQUESTED HIS "URGENT INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THOUSANDS OF INDIAN RAILWAYMEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED FOR PLANNING STRIKES IN PURSUIT OF CLAIMS FOR LONG OVERDUE IMPROVEMENTS IN WAGES AND CONDITIONS. GOVERNMENT ACTION (WAS) IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF SPIRIT OF BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES."

4. THE ITF INFORMED THE RAILWAYMEN'S UNION OF ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL WAS FLYING TO NEW DELHI TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION DIRECTLY, AND URGED THEM TO CONTACT HIM. IN ADDITION, THE ITF CIRCULATED ITS CABLES TO ALL OF ITS AFFILIATES AND ASKED THEM TO DIRECT SIMILAR PROTESTS TO THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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